

[7 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish Special Economic Zone in Bihar, as in other States;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it would be very helpful for the development of Bihar if Special Economic Zone is established in Bihar; and

(d) whether Government would consider it in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) One proposal for setting up of a Sector Specific Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for Steel in Patna, Bihar has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir. The main objectives of the SEZ Act, 2005 are generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, attracting investment from foreign and domestic sources, generation of employment opportunities and development of infrastructure facilities. Therefore, setting up of SEZs is expected to bring overall development.

(d) Central Government considers only such proposals which satisfy the requirements laid down in the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 & the Special Economic Zone Rules, 2006 and are duly recommended by the concerned State Government.

Problem in acquisitions of land for SEZs

899. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) received so far and out of that which are the approved ones;

(b) whether there have been problems in the acquisition of land for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Since the operationalisation

of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 with effect from 10th February, 2006, as on date there are 234 valid formal approvals and 162 valid in-principle approvals for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Another 322 proposals have since been received for setting up SEZs.

(b) and (c) In the 234 valid formal approvals granted till date, land is in the ownership/possession of either State Industrial Development Corporations/State Governments or with the developers and in these cases, there is no fresh acquisition of land involved. However, in some of the cases out of 162 cases where in principle approvals had been given the State Governments have initiated land acquisition proceedings. Various representations received in this regard have been placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM). The Ministry of Rural Development is currently formulating a revised National Rehabilitation Policy with the objective to minimize displacement and to promote, as far as possible, non-displacing or least displacing alternatives, ensure adequate rehabilitation packages and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the displaced persons. As and when the new policy is implemented, it will apply to acquisition of land for industrial projects including SEZs.

Assistance under Market Access Initiative Scheme

900. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Market Access Initiative Scheme is a Plan Scheme to promote India's exports on a sustained basis and to extend assistance, *inter-alia*, to recognized industrial clusters and individual exporters;

(b) if so, the selection criteria for assistance to them;

(c) the details of industrial clusters and individual exporters which availed assistance under the scheme since 1st January, 2005; and

(d) the success achieved in promoting exports of various items by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir; the Market Access Initiative Scheme is a Plan Scheme to promote India's exports on a sustained basis. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided to